

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 CIAE-00 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 FEA-02 AGR-20 TAR-02

INT-08 STR-08 DRC-01 /143 W
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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7679

INFO AMCONSUL POZNAN

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, XX, PL

SUBJECT: SHORT SUPPLY PROBLEMS: EXPORT CONTROLS AND
EXPORT TAXES IMPOSED BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

REF:(A) STATE 22871; (B) STATE 23940

1. THIS MESSAGE IS IN REPLY TO THE RELATED REQUESTS
CONTAINED IN REFTELS.

2. NO NEW SPECIFIC EXPORT CONTROLS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED. HOWEVER,
POLAND'S FOREIGN TRADE IS CONDUCTED THROUGH A STATE-
TRADING MECHANISM AND THEREFORE ALL OF ITS EXPORTS ARE
REGULATED AND CONTROLLED. OVERALL EXPORT POLICIES AND
GOALS ARE ESTABLISHED BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN STATE PLANNING
COMMISSION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE, AND VARIOUS
INDUSTRIAL MINISTRIES. DECISIONS TO LIMIT OR BAN EXPORTS
OR CERTAIN MATERIALS AND COMMODITIES (E.G., DUE TO SHORT-
SUPPLY PROBLEMS) ARE IMPLEMENTED BY STATE-CONTROLLED
FOREIGN TRADE ENTERPRISES, WHICH HAVE MONOPOLY, BY
PRODUCT SECTOR, FOR ALL COMMERCIAL EXPORT AND IMPORT
TRADE.

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3. BECAUSE OF CONTINUED NEED TO EARN HARD CURRENCY, TENDENCY OF GOP IS TO PUSH ITS EXPORTS, EVEN TO DETRIMENT OF SUPPLIES FOR THE DOMESTIC MARKET (E.G., MEAT, AUTOMOBILES, FURNITURE). HOWEVER, GOP CERTAINLY ALSO USED ITS STATE-TRADING MONOPOLY TO DIRECT EXPORTS TOWARD CERTAIN MARKETS AND TO LIMIT OR BAN EXPORTS OF CERTAIN MATERIALS, THE LATTER BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS. WHILE EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF ANY SPECIFIC EXPORT CONTROL MEASURES WHICH GOP MAY HAVE IMPOSED SINCE JAN 1973, SUCH ACTIONS ARE NOT NORMALLY MADE PUBLIC.

4. POLAND'S EXPORT TARIFF APPLIES ONLY TO NON-COMMERCIAL EXPORTS, SUCH AS TO GIFT SHIPMENTS BY PRIVATE CITIZENS AND TO PURCHASES BY FOREIGN TOURISTS. CERTAIN MINOR CHANGES WERE MADE IN THIS TARIFF RECENTLY, WHICH WILL BE REPORTED BY AIRGRAM.

5. CEMENT AND SOME WOOD PRODUCTS ARE CURRENTLY IN SHORT SUPPLY IN POLAND AND MOST LIKELY ARE NOT EXPORTED. DUE TO SUPPLY QUESTIONS AND INCREASED WORLD PRICE FOR CRUDE OIL, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE POLISH EXPORTS FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO WESTERN MARKET MIGHT BE SUBJECTED TO SPECIAL SHORT-TERM RESTRAINTS.

DAVIES

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